

# People and Trees

**S**ince the beginning of time, people have found many uses for trees. They have used them to build shelter, as a source of food, to provide heat and for recreation.

An increase in the Earth's population has created more and more demand for products that come from trees. Fortunately, trees are a renewable resource. But even though we have many trees, they are a valuable resource, and we don't want to waste them. That's why it's so important to use every part of a tree that is harvested.

Over the years, people have found ways to use wood far more effectively than was ever thought possible. We even use it again through recycling.

We enjoy the beauty of trees, but trees are also valuable in many practical ways. By using as much of the tree as possible — and by planting new trees — we can be sure that we always will be able to enjoy the benefits that come from this valuable natural resource.

## ANIMALS AND INSECTS

Trees provide shelter and food for many animals. Squirrels eat nuts. Beavers eat the soft inner bark of trees and use trees to make dams. Birds eat seeds from trees. Even insects feast on trees!

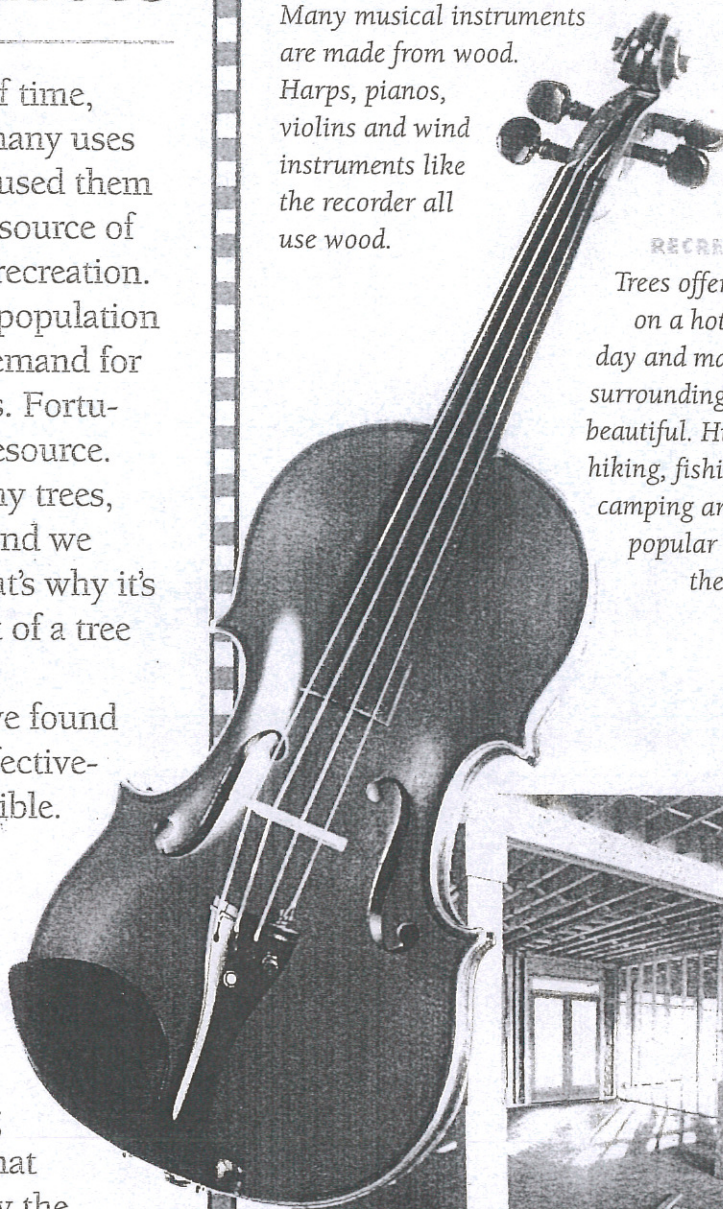


THE METALLIC WOOD-BORING BEETLE BURROWS INTO DECOMPOSING LOGS

## MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Many musical instruments are made from wood.

Harps, pianos, violins and wind instruments like the recorder all use wood.

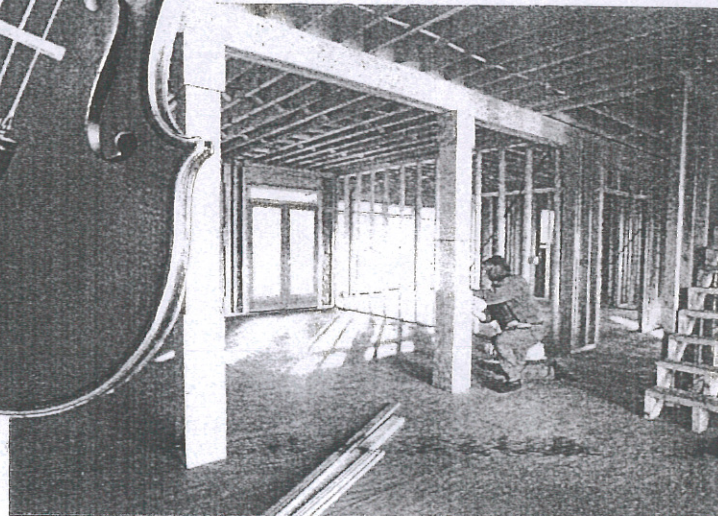


## RECREATION

Trees offer shade on a hot sunny day and make our surroundings more beautiful. Hunting, hiking, fishing and camping are some popular uses of the forest.



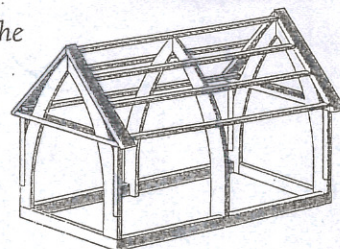
STREAM IN WEST VIR



NEW HOME CONSTRUCTION

## SHELTER

The "beehive" hut was probably the first type of wood construction. Then came the medieval cruck frame. This type of construction eventually evolved into the post and truss frame building. These older types of buildings used big columns and beams made from solid wood. The platform frame we use today makes more efficient use of the tree because it uses smaller and lighter materials while still maintaining the strength and support we need.

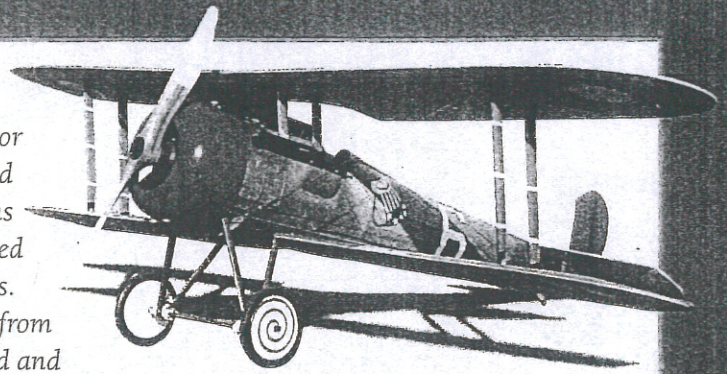


MEDIEVAL CRUCK FRAME



#### TRANSPORTATION

Trees have played a big role in transportation. For many centuries, the seafaring people of the world used wood to make their ships. Native Americans used trees to make rafts and canoes. Horses pulled wooden carts so people could move heavy objects. Families traveled west in covered wagons made from wood. Although you don't always see them, wood and wood products still are used in automobiles, boats and airplanes today.



EVEN THE FIRST AIRPLANES WERE MADE FROM WOOD!

#### FOOD

Trees produce an abundance of fruits and nuts. Chocolate, coffee, maple syrup, many spices, and olive, almond and coconut oils also come from trees.

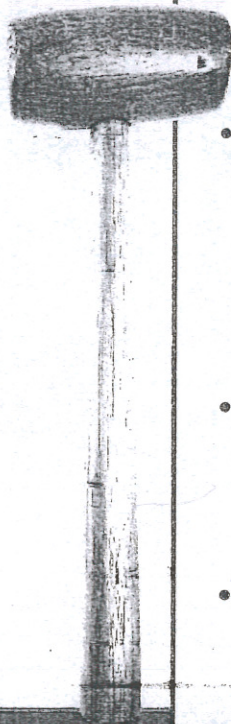


#### CLOTHING

Mohave Indian women used bark from cottonwood trees to make skirts similar to grass skirts worn by Hawaiian women. People also use dyes made from trees to color cloth. Today, fabrics such as rayon are made from cellulose we get from trees.

#### TOOLS

People all over the world have used wood from trees to make utensils, baskets, tools, dishes and devices for hunting and fishing. Even modern tools, like screwdrivers, use chemicals from wood to make the hard plastic handles.



## Did you know?

- Veneering — applying thin strips of wood on decorative objects — is an ancient Egyptian craft. The throne from the tomb of Tutankhamen (King Tut) is made of a cedarwood veneer overlaid with ebony and ivory.
- The Chinese first made paper as we know it today from a mixture of mulberry bark, rags and hemp. But it wasn't until the 18th century that we recognized wood fiber as a good source of paper. The French scientist Rene de Reaumur got the idea from observing a wasp building a nest from a twig it mixed with its body fluids to create pulp.
- Rubber got its name from the 18th-century scientist Joseph Priestley because he observed that it rubbed out pencil marks. Rubber was used by the people of Belize in Central America for ball games in the 11th century.
- Some Native Americans record the history of their tribes by carving totem poles with illustrations of their experiences and adventures.